CLAIMS

1 An exhaust gas purifying catalyst comprising a metal oxide particle and rhodium supported thereon, wherein said metal oxide particle comprises a core part relatively rich in ceria and a surface layer relatively rich in zirconia.

2 The exhaust gas purifying catalyst according to claim 1, wherein said core part and said surface layer each comprises a plurality of primary particles.

3 The exhaust gas purifying catalyst according to claim 1 or 2, wherein the molar fraction of cerium is from 35 to 50 mol% based on the total molar number of cerium and zirconium in said metal oxide particle.

4 The exhaust gas purifying catalyst according to any one of claims 1 to 3, wherein the total molar fraction of cerium and zirconium is at least 85 mol% based on the total molar number of metals in said metal oxide particle.

5 The exhaust gas purifying catalyst according to any one of claims 1 to 4, wherein said metal oxide particle has an average particle diameter of less than 10 μm.

6 The exhaust gas purifying catalyst according to any one of claims 1 to 5, wherein at least one element selected from the group consisting of alkaline earth metals and rare earths is added to said core part relatively rich in ceria.

7 The exhaust gas purifying catalyst according to any one of claims 1 to 6, wherein at least one element selected from the group consisting of alkaline earth metals and rare earths is added to said surface layer relatively rich in zirconia.

8 A process for producing an exhaust gas purifying catalyst, comprising:

providing a sol containing at least a population of ceria colloid particles and a population of zirconia colloid particles differing in the isoelectric

point with each other,

adjusting the pH of said sol to be closer to the isoelectric point of said population of ceria colloid particles than to the isoelectric point of said population of zirconia colloid particles, thereby aggregating said population of ceria colloid particles,

adjusting the pH of said sol to be closer to the isoelectric point of said population of zirconia colloid particles than to the isoelectric point of said population of ceria colloid particles, thereby aggregating said population of zirconia colloid particles onto said aggregated population of ceria colloid particles,

drying and firing the obtained aggregate to obtain a metal oxide particle comprising a core part relatively rich in ceria and a surface layer relatively rich in zirconia, and

loading rhodium on the obtained metal oxide particle.